

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method for dividing user storage space of an optical disc, the method comprising acts of:

dividing the user storage space located between a lead-in area and a lead-out area of the optical disk into one or more storage sections where a specific application is allowed to write and one or more sections where said application is not allowed to write, wherein the user storage space is space on the optical disc that is available for a user to store user data; and

defining one or more availability parameters which defines a location and/or extent of at least one application-allowed storage section in the user storage space of the optical disk.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said one or more availability parameters is incorporated in a standard format for the application concerned.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said one or more availability parameters is a variable parameter whose value is stored in a

predetermined area or location of the user storage space of the optical disc.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said availability parameters defines a borderline address between an application-allowed storage section and an application-forbidden storage section.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said availability parameters defines an extremity address of an application-allowed storage section.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said availability parameters defines a length of an application-allowed storage section.

7. (Previously presented) A user-writeable optical disc, the optical disc comprising:
a user storage space located between a lead-in area and a lead-out area of the optical disc divided into one or more storage sections where a specific application is allowed to write and one or more sections where said application is not allowed to write, wherein the user storage space is space on the optical disc that is available for a user to store user data; and

a predetermined area or location of the user storage space where one or more availability parameters is stored which defines a location and/or extent of at least one application-allowed storage section in the user storage space of the optical disc.

8. (Previously presented) The user-writeable optical disc according to claim 7, wherein at least one of said availability parameters defines a borderline address between an application-allowed storage section and an application-forbidden storage section.

9. (Previously presented) The user-writeable optical disc according to claim 7, wherein at least one of said availability parameters defines an extremity address of an application-allowed storage section.

10. (Previously presented) The user-writeable optical disc according to claim 7, wherein at least one of said availability parameters defines a length of an application-allowed storage section.

11. (Previously presented) The user-writeable optical disc according to claim 7, wherein the values of said parameters are stored as a table in a predetermined area or location of the user storage space of the disc.

12. (Previously presented) The user-writeable optical disc according to claim 11, wherein said table contains at least one entry defining the length of the table.

13. (Previously presented) A method of writing information to an optical disc comprising acts of:

determining a value of an availability parameter;

determining at least one predefined application-allowed storage section of a user storage space located between a lead-in area and a lead-out area of the optical disk on the basis of said availability parameter, wherein the user storage space is space on the optical disc that is available for a user to store user data;

consulting application-specific recording location information regarding location and extent of recorded areas of the user storage space;

selecting, within said application-allowed storage section of the user storage space, a free area suitable for accommodating the information to be written, taking into account said recorded areas as determined by said application-specific recording location information;

writing said information within said free area thus selected.

14. (Previously presented) The method of writing information to an optical disc according to claim 7, comprising acts of:

reading the one or more availability parameters from disc;

determining at least one predefined application-allowed storage section in the user storage space on the basis of said one or more availability parameters;

consulting application-specific recording location information regarding location and extent of recorded areas in the user storage space;

selecting, within said application-allowed storage section, a free area suitable for accommodating the information to be written, taking into account said recorded areas as

determined by said application-specific recording location information;

writing said information within said free area thus selected.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein writing to an address outside said application-allowed storage section is avoided.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein, if it appears that the size of the free area is insufficient to accommodate the information to be written, the following acts are executed:

determining whether the application-forbidden storage section within the user storage area and outside said application-allowed storage section, either by itself or in combination with the free area already found, contains a storage space portion suitable and sufficient for accommodating the information to be written; and

amending at least one of said one or more availability parameters such as to increase the size of said application-allowed storage section.

17. (Previously presented) Apparatus, comprising a signal processing system configured to communicate with a disc drive system of a disc drive apparatus for writing data to and reading data from an optical disc, wherein said signal processing system is configured to divide user storage space located between a lead-in area and a lead-out area of the optical disc into one or more storage sections where a specific application is allowed to write and one or more sections where said application is not allowed to write, wherein

the user storage space is space on the optical disc that is available for a user to store user data, and to define one or more availability parameters which defines a location and/or extent of at least one application-allowed storage section.